

Varner-Alexander House
Tuskegee, Alabama.
Macon Co.

HABS No. 16-543.

HABS
ALA

44-Tusg

5-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. 16.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

Project #16-543
VARNER-ALEXANDER HOUSE
Tuskegee, Alabama

HISTORICAL DATA:

Built 1854-1856.

Ownership:

This house was designed, built and owned by a William Varner of Tuskegee, Alabama.

E. T. Varner and his sister Mrs. Alexander, the children of William Varner, lived all their lives in this home.

E. R. Alexander, the son of Mrs. Alexander, and grandson of the original owner (William Varner) now owns and resides in this old home.

Three Generations:

Three generations of the same family have lived here: William Varner, E. T. Varner and his sister, and E. R. Alexander. Mr. Alexander's son died a number of years ago, while a student at Harvard University.

Alterations:

French doors, interior decorations, a breakfast room and kitchen have been added since the house was built in 1854-1856. The original kitchen must have been, as was the case of nearly all the old Alabama homes, a separate building or wing in the back of the main part of the home.

Theodore Roosevelt:

President Theodore Roosevelt was entertained in this home during his visit to Tuskegee.

Source of Material:

Mr. E. R. Alexander, Tuskegee, Ala.
Miss Annette Howard, Tuskegee, Ala.

Revised 1936, H.C.F.

VARNER-ALEXANDER HOUSE
Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This plantation house was ambitiously planned. A two-storey high Doric portico adorns not only the entire front façade, but the greater part of the two façades at the side as well. The cornice has a pair of curlicue brackets over each column. On each side of the entrance door are elaborate Corinthian columns placed flat against Corinthian pilasters. The scrolled brackets over these columns and pilasters support a wrought-iron balcony, the excellent design of which may be seen on the title page of the drawings. In the base of the house there are rectangular openings with cast-iron grilles of rinceau design. An octagonal cupola crowns the roof.

The interior is noted for the elliptical arch on Doric columns in the hall. It is odd that the fancy carved step-ends should be on the rear stairs, while the front stairs are plain.

MATOR, DOM. ARCH. OF EARLY AMER. REPUBLIC, PL 148

Source of Material:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Administrator, HABS.
Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

(Revised and rewritten at
HABS HEADQUARTERS, Feb. 13,
1936 - H.C.F.)

(Original sheet in field notebook).

Grey Columns
(Varner-Alexander House, Tuskegee Institute
National Historic Site)
Old Montgomery Road
Tuskegee
Macon County
Alabama

HABS No. AL-543

HABS
ALA
44-TUSG
5-

Addendum to:

Varner-Alexander House
Tuskegee
Macon County
Alabama
(as recorded in the 1930s)

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

ADDENDUM TO
GREY COLUMNS (VARNER-ALEXANDER HOUSE)
Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
Old Montgomery Road
Tuskegee
Macon County
Alabama

HABS No. AL-543

HABS
ALA,
44-TUSG,
5-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013